



DARK NIGHTS

54

DEATH  
METAL

# ★ JUSTICE LEAGUE

WILLIAMSON  
XERMANICO  
FAJARDO JR.  
DCCOMICS.COM  
AGES 18+

IN THE VALLEY OF THE STARROS!



**THE DARKEST KNIGHT RISES.  
THE MULTIVERSE FALLS.  
HISTORY WILL BE REWRITTEN.**

**STORY BY JAMES TYNION IV AND BRYAN HILL  
ART BY JESUS MERINO AND NIK VIRELLA • COVER BY IAN BERTRAM**



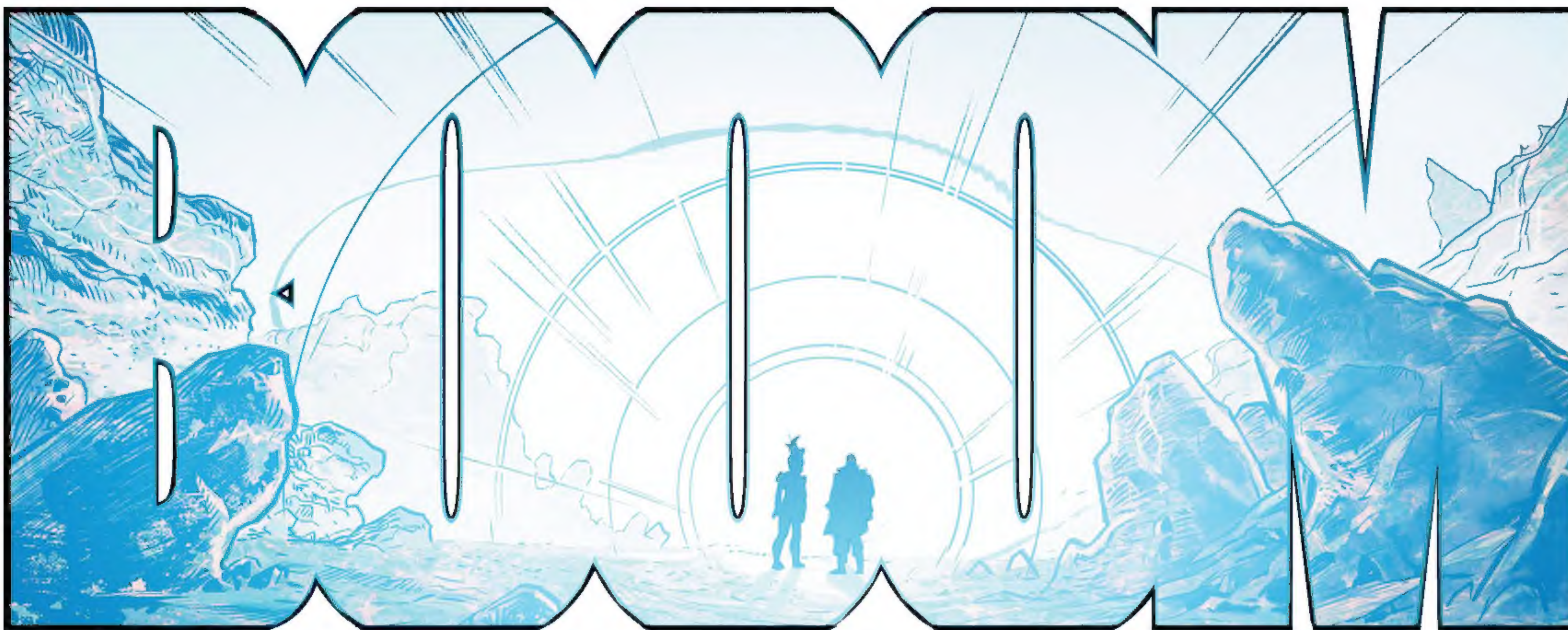
**DARK NIGHTS**

**DEATH  
METAL**

**RISE OF THE  
NEW GOD**

**NEW ONE-SHOT • OCTOBER**









**PART TWO**  
**JOSHUA WILLIAMSON** WRITER **XERMANICO** ARTIST  
**ROMULO FAJARDO JR.** COLORIST **TOM NAPOLITANO** LETTERER  
**LIAM SHARP & DAVE STEWART** COVER **HOWARD PORTER & HI-FI** VARIANT COVER  
**ANDREA SHEA** ASSOCIATE EDITOR **ALEX R. CARR** EDITOR





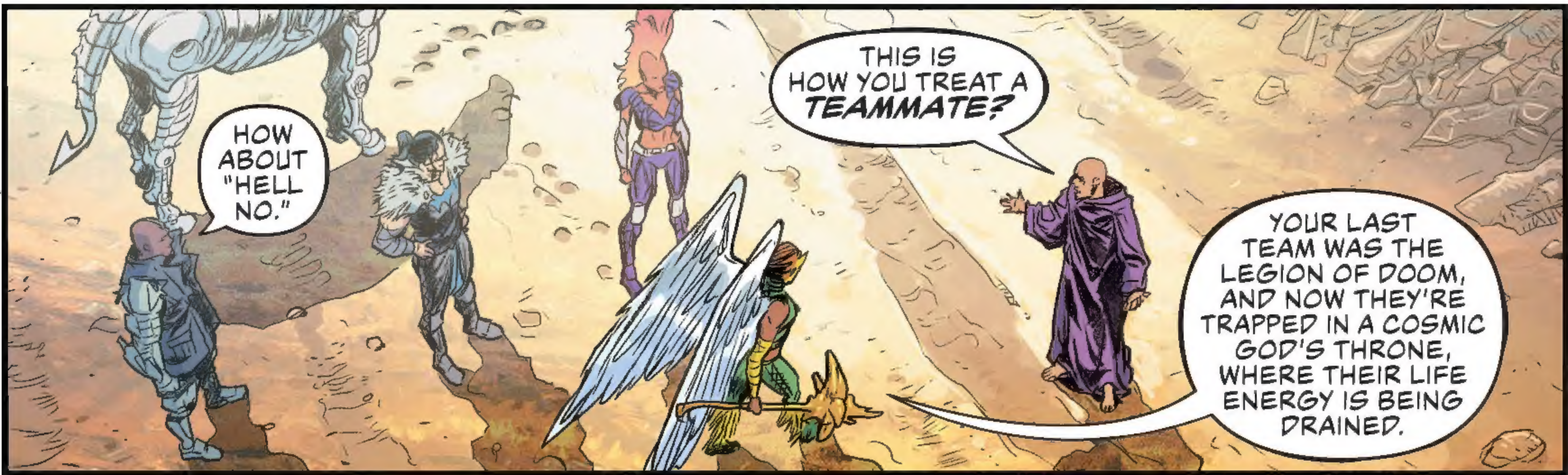


I DON'T HAVE A GOOD ANSWER FOR STARFIRE'S QUESTION AS TO WHY YOU'RE WITH US.

YOU HELPED US FIND OUR FRIENDS, BUT NO MATTER YOUR ACTIONS...I WON'T PUT US IN JEOPARDY BECAUSE OF YOU.

YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE, NIGHTWING.

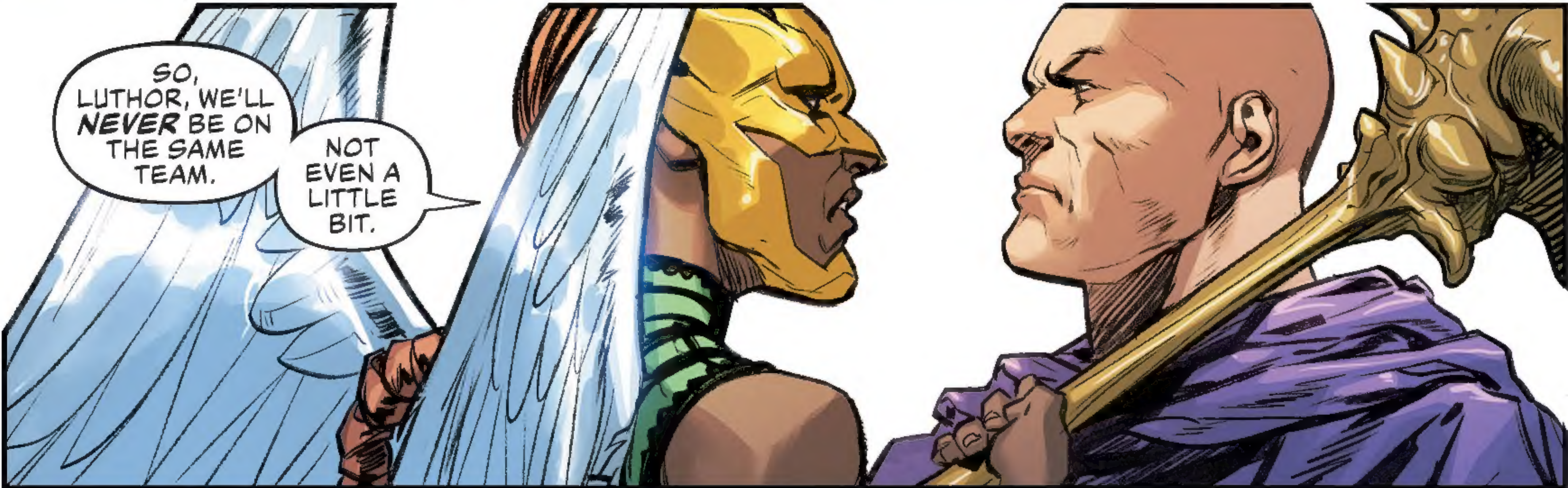
IF YOU WISH TO SURVIVE THIS WORLD LONG ENOUGH TO GET TO PERPETUA'S THRONE BEFORE IT MOVES AGAIN, YOU **NEED** ME.



HOW ABOUT "HELL NO."

THIS IS HOW YOU TREAT A **TEAMMATE?**

YOUR LAST TEAM WAS THE LEGION OF DOOM, AND NOW THEY'RE TRAPPED IN A COSMIC GOD'S THRONE, WHERE THEIR LIFE ENERGY IS BEING DRAINED.



SO, LUTHOR, WE'LL **NEVER** BE ON THE SAME TEAM.

NOT EVEN A LITTLE BIT.

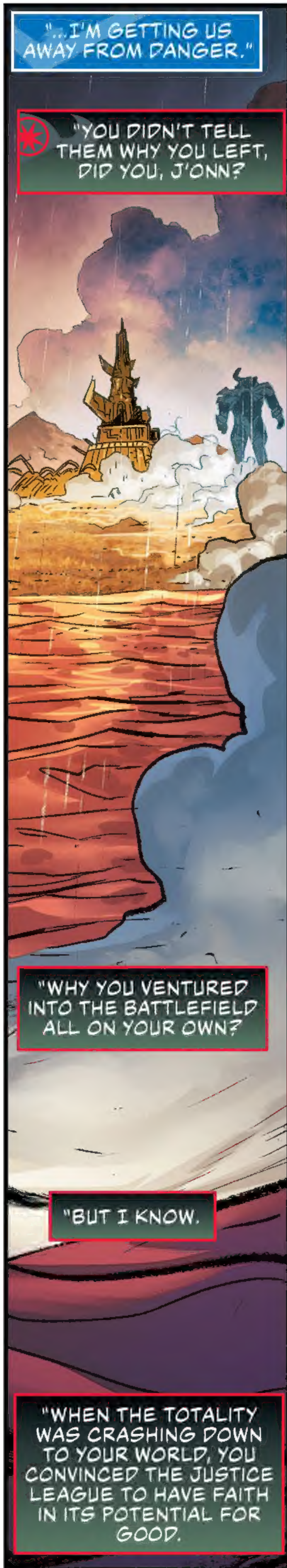


YOU DON'T KNOW THIS WORLD LIKE I DO, NIGHTWING! ONLY I CAN GET US TO **BRIMSTONE BAY** SAFELY TO FREE THE LEGION OF DOOM! YOU WILL LEAD YOUR FRIENDS TO DANGER!

I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I'M DOING, LEX.

BY GETTING US AWAY FROM YOU...





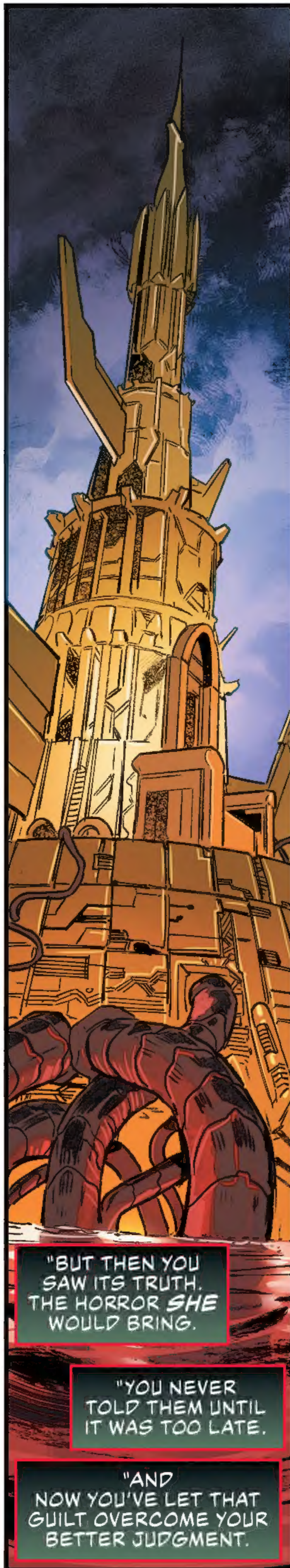
"...I'M GETTING US AWAY FROM DANGER."

"YOU DIDN'T TELL THEM WHY YOU LEFT, DID YOU, J'ONN?"

"WHY YOU VENTURED INTO THE BATTLEFIELD ALL ON YOUR OWN?"

"BUT I KNOW."

"WHEN THE TOTALITY WAS CRASHING DOWN TO YOUR WORLD, YOU CONVINCED THE JUSTICE LEAGUE TO HAVE FAITH IN ITS POTENTIAL FOR GOOD."



"BUT THEN YOU SAW ITS TRUTH. THE HORROR *SHE* WOULD BRING."

"YOU NEVER TOLD THEM UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE."

"AND NOW YOU'VE LET THAT GUILT OVERCOME YOUR BETTER JUDGMENT."



"SO WHEN YOU SENSED SOMEONE LIKE YOU, YOU WANTED TO KNOW WHAT *THEY* SAW WHEN THEY LOOKED AT THE TOTALITY. IF THEY MADE THE SAME CHOICE AS YOU."

"YOU AND I WERE ALWAYS ALIKE, J'ONN. BOTH HAD OUR WORLDS TRAGICALLY RIPPED AWAY FROM US."



"AS THE BATMAN OF MY WORLD, I STOLE DNA FROM MY MARTIAN MANHUNTER."

"THE ABILITIES OF SUPERMAN, PLUS INVISIBILITY AND SHAPE-SHIFTING..."



"BUT THOSE ARE *NOT* OUR GREATEST WEAPON, ARE THEY?"



IT'S OUR **MINDS**.

THE TELEPATHIC CONNECTION WE CAN CREATE WITH THE PEOPLE AROUND US.

YOU USED THIS SKILL TO CONNECT THE JUSTICE LEAGUE.

EVEN NOW, IN THIS HELL, YOU CAN STILL FEEL THEM. YOU CAN STILL READ THEIR THOUGHTS.



AND THAT IS WHAT I WANT. THAT **CONNECTION** WILL HELP THE DARKEST KNIGHT AND I KNOW WHAT BATMAN, SUPERMAN, AND WONDER WOMAN ARE UP TO, AND THEN WE CAN **STOP** THEM.

I'VE TRAINED MYSELF TO PROTECT THAT CONNECTION, MINDHUNTER.

I SEE THAT. CLEVER.

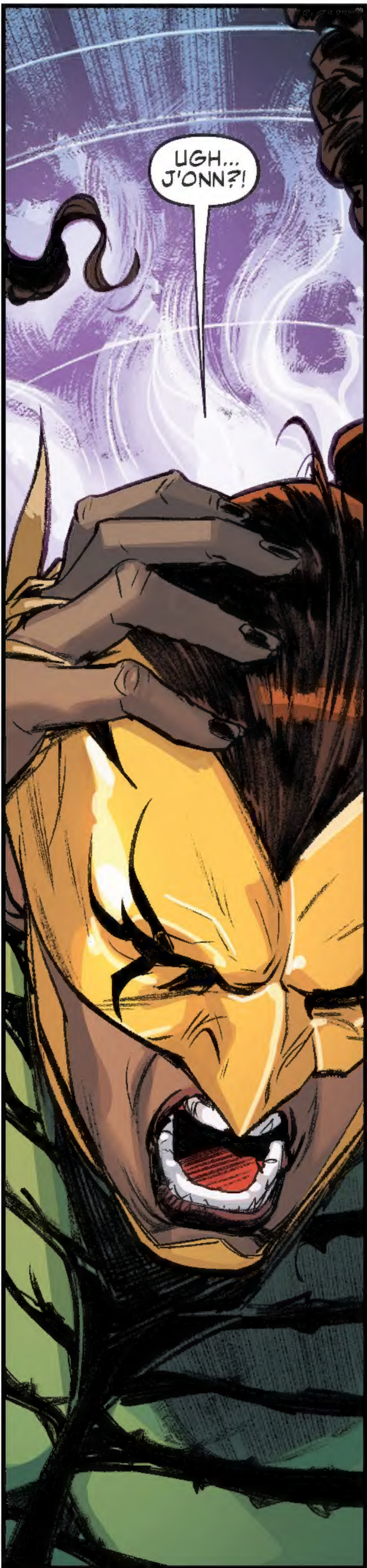
BUT I AM STILL **BATMAN**.

AND YOUR MIND WILL BE MINE!

**AAAAHHH!**











...BECAUSE  
THAT'S A WHOLE  
LOT OF  
**STARROS.**

WHAT  
ABOUT YOUR  
BOOM TUBES,  
VICTOR?

TOO RISKY.  
WHATEVER'S UP  
WITH THIS WORLD IS  
PLAYING TRICKS  
ON THEM.

I MISS  
JARRO.

WHO?

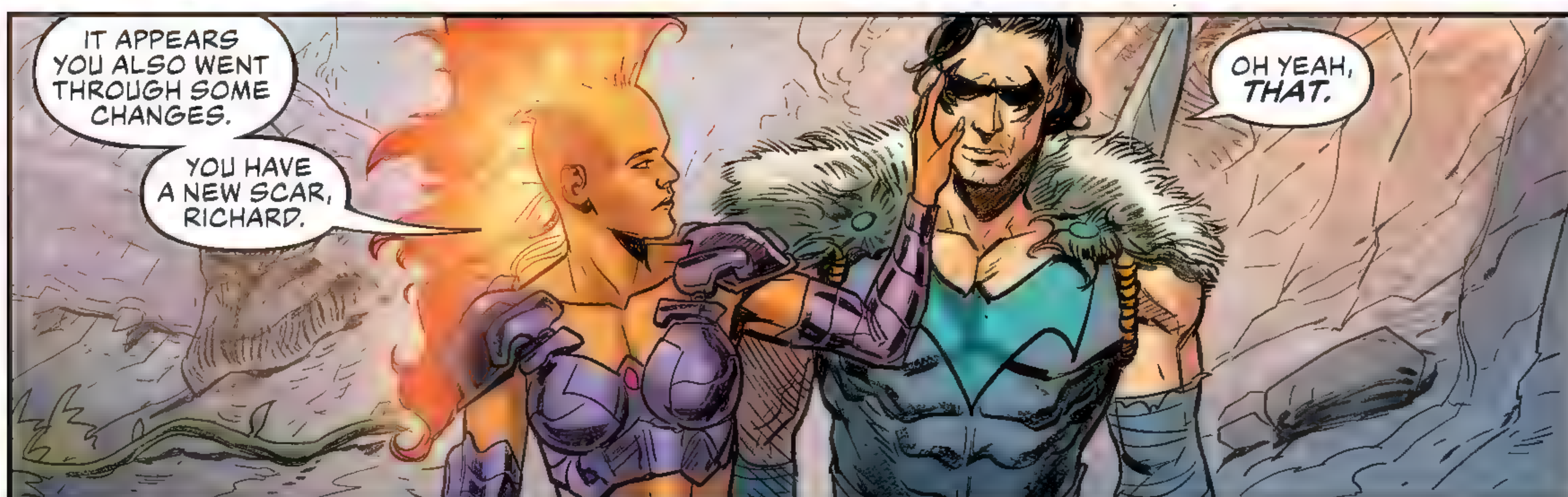
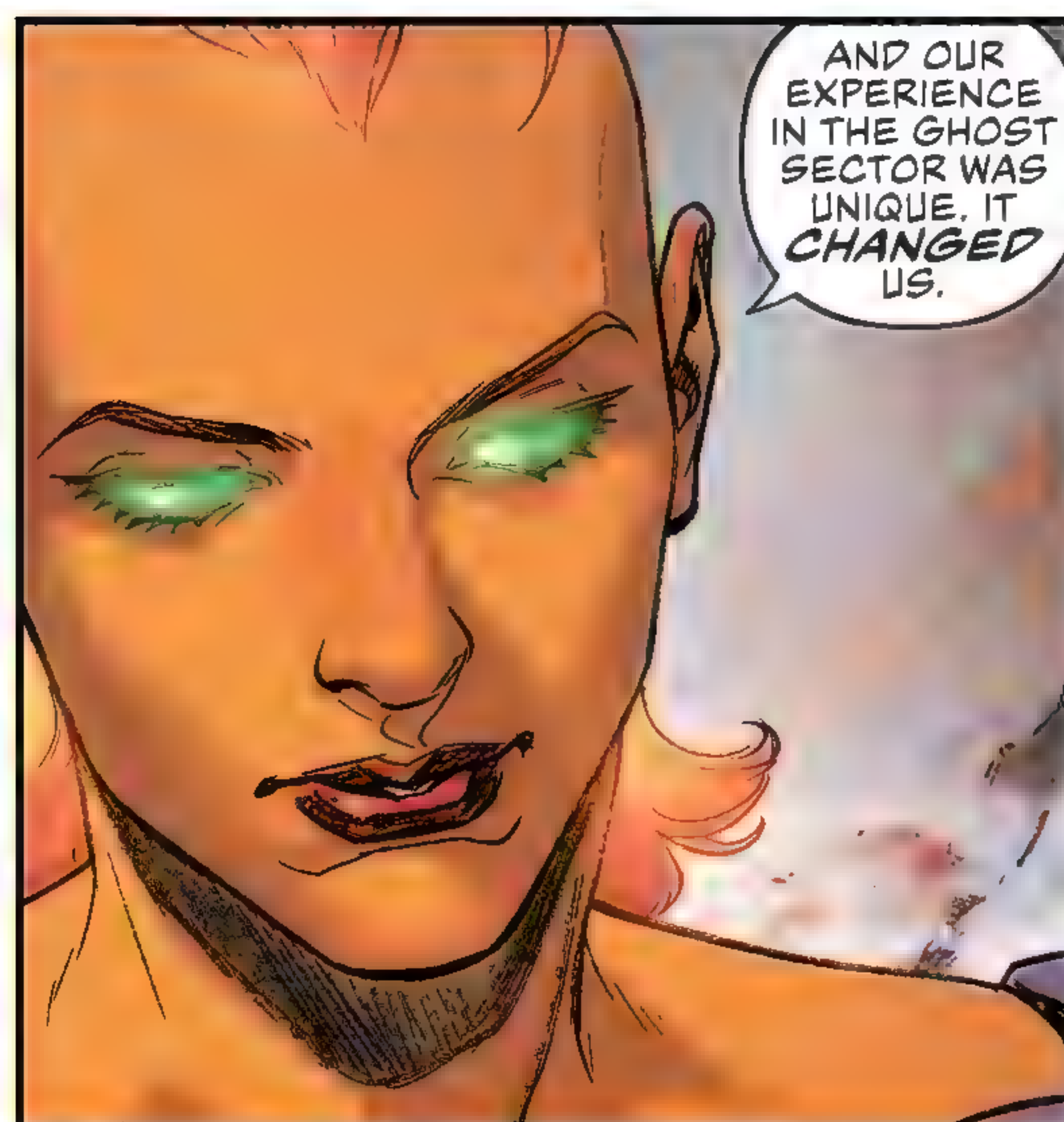
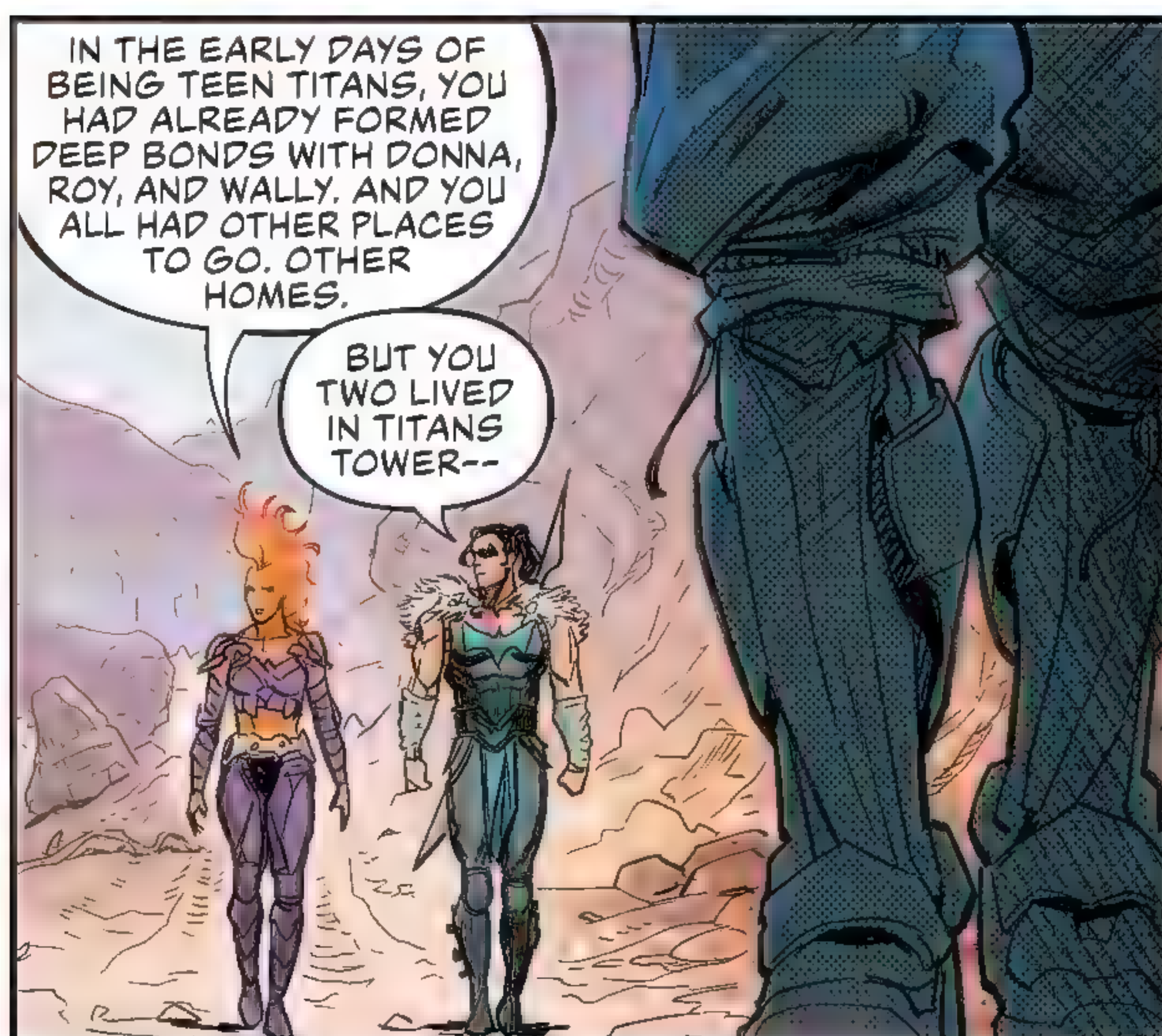
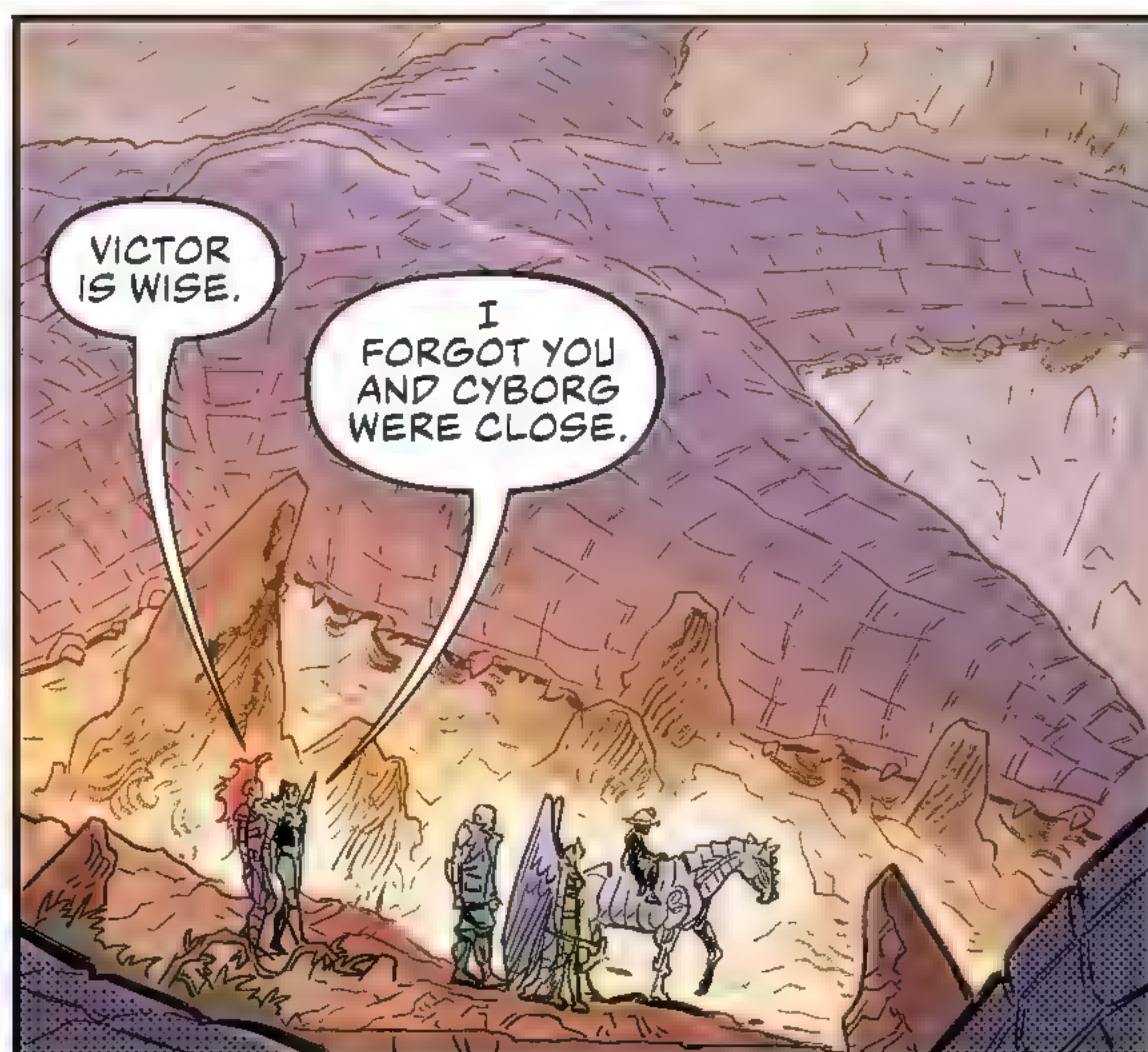
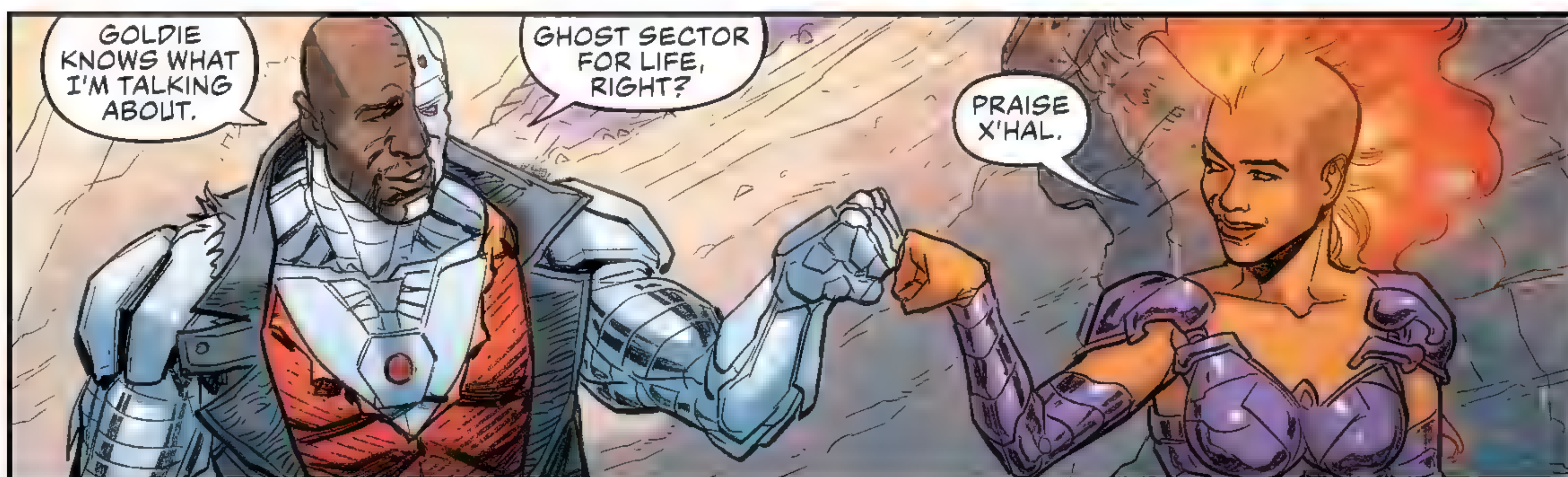
YOU WERE  
GONE A LONG  
TIME, VIC.

NOW  
C'MON...

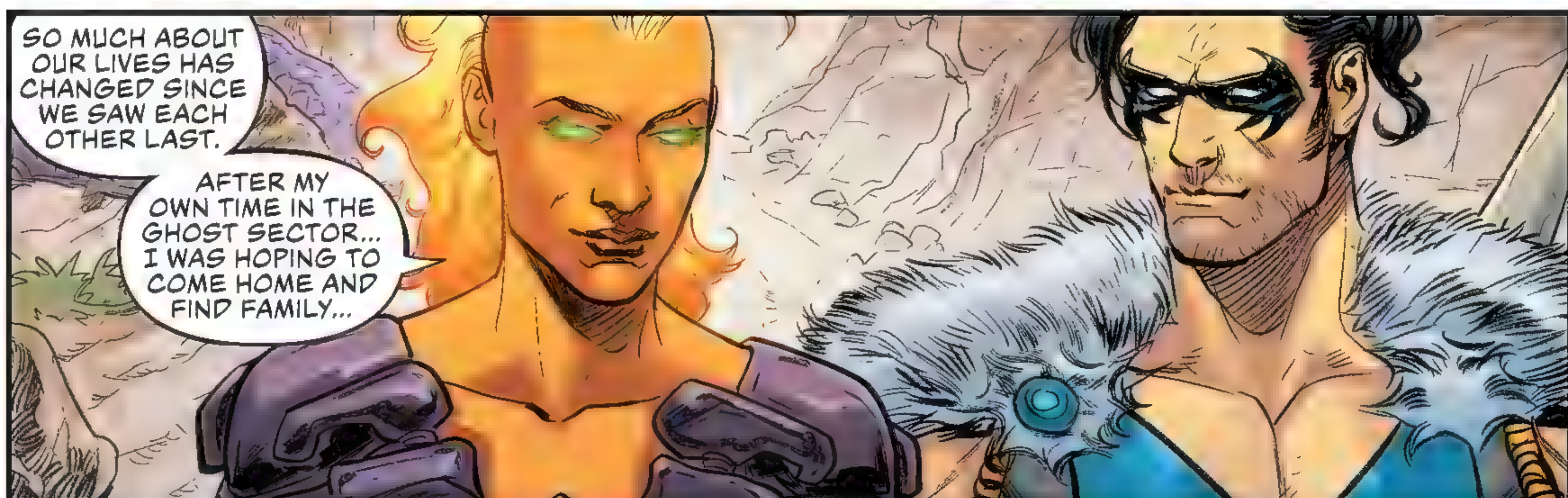




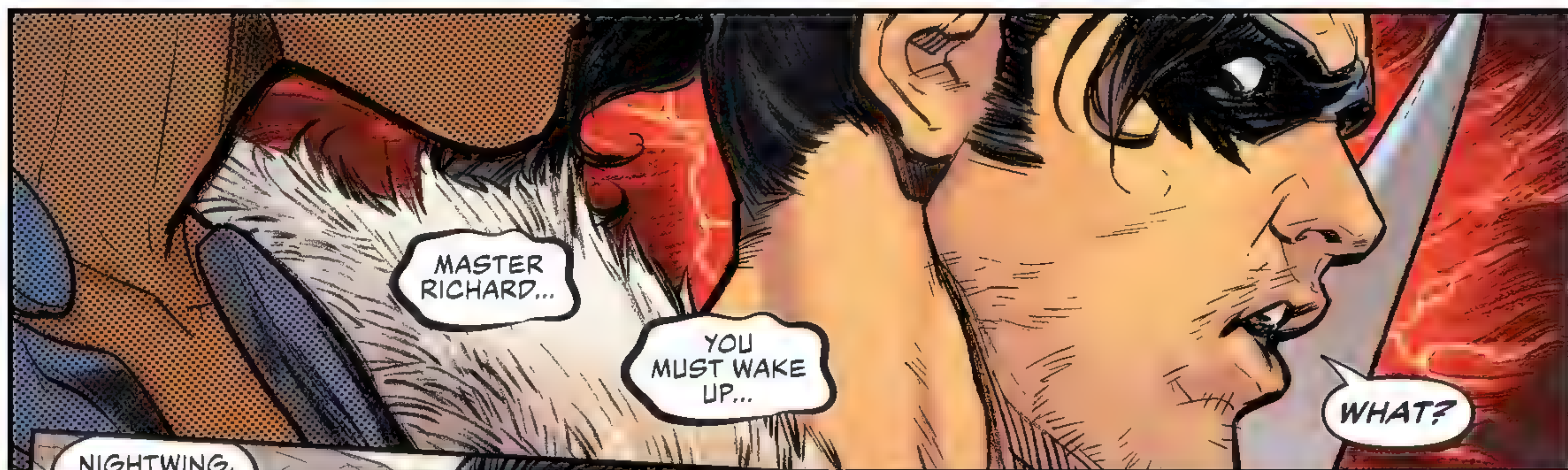
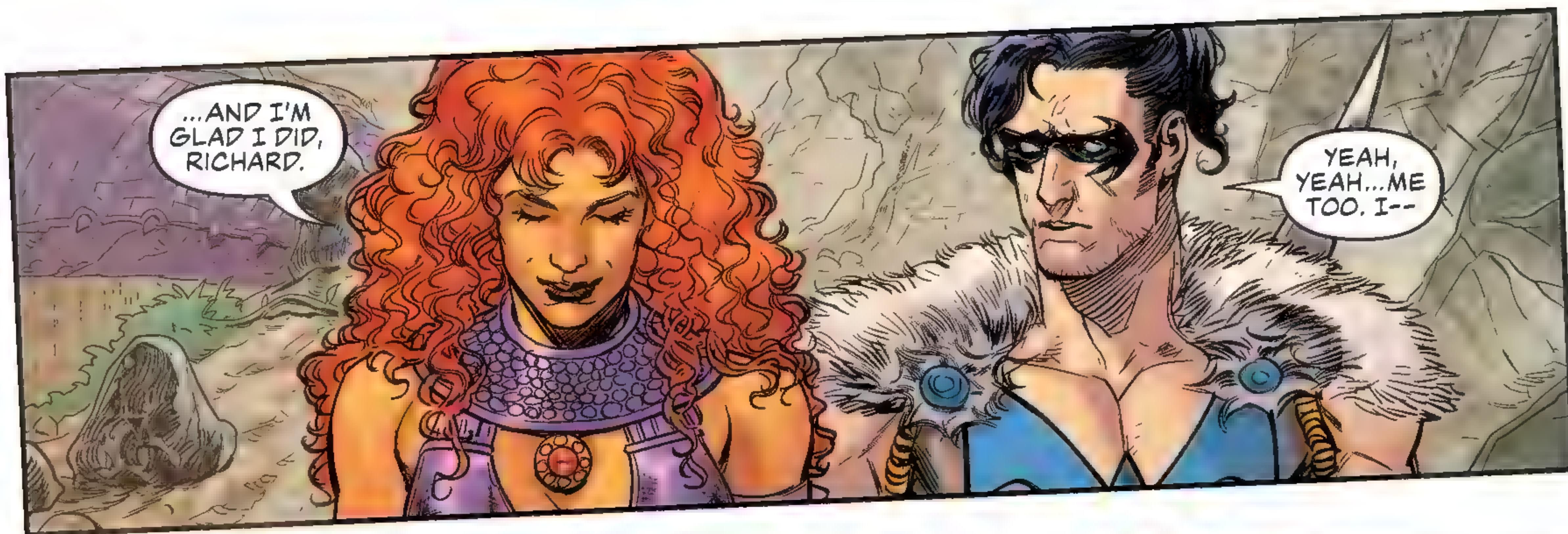
















AH!

MASTER RICHARD, YOU'RE SAFE.



MERELY A FLESH WOUND, BUT YOU DEFINITELY HAVE A CONCUSSION.

YOU'RE VERY LUCKY THE BULLET MISSED.

MASTER BRUCE IS TAKING KGBEAST TO BLACKGATE AT THIS VERY MOMENT.

YOU GAVE US ALL A SCARE THERE.



ALFRED?!



IT WAS JUST A DREAM?

THE WORLD HAD COMPLETELY CHANGED, TRANSFORMED BY THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS.

HAVING A BULLET BOUNCE OFF YOUR SKULL CAN GIVE YOU WEIRD DREAMS.

NO, IT WAS A NIGHTMARE.

THIS... THIS ISN'T RIGHT.

MASTER RICHARD, YOU SHOULD REST. PLEASE.

NO NO NO. BRUCE TAUGHT ME HOW TO SEPARATE DREAMS FROM REALITY. AND THAT WORLD WAS **REAL**. BUT THIS ONE...

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, RICHARD? EVERYTHING IS FINE.

BATMAN WILL BE BACK SOON. YOU CAN TALK TO HIM.

BUT THAT DREAM IS OVER. YOU'RE HERE NOW. WITH US. WITH **ME**. YOU'RE SAFE.

SAFE?

EVERYTHING WILL GO BACK TO THE WAY IT **USED** TO BE.

YES, DICK. THE WAY IT **USED** TO BE.





YOU'VE  
BEEN THROUGH  
ENOUGH.  
IT'S TIME  
YOU WENT  
BACK.

TOO  
OFTEN WE HAVE  
FOUGHT WHEN WE  
SHOULD HAVE  
BEEN TOGETHER,  
SISTER.  
COME  
TO ME.

THE  
SWORD HAS  
BEEN SO HEAVY.  
AND IT GETS  
HEAVIER AND  
HEAVIER.

YOU  
DON'T HAVE  
TO HOLD IT  
EVER AGAIN,  
BOBO.  
COME  
TO ME.

I'M SORRY  
I LEFT WITHOUT  
TELLING YOU.  
LET GO OF YOUR  
ANGER.

COME  
TO ME.

DON'T  
REJECT  
WHO YOU  
ARE.

I KNOW  
YOU. NOW  
LET'S GO BACK  
TOGETHER.

DAD?

YOU DID IT,  
VICTOR. YOU  
FINALLY FOUND  
YOUR HUMANITY  
IN THE STARS. WE CAN  
BE FATHER AND  
SON AGAIN. MOVE  
ON FROM THE  
PAST.

COME  
TO ME.

COME  
TO ME.

THIS...  
THIS ISN'T  
REAL.

TOGETHER...



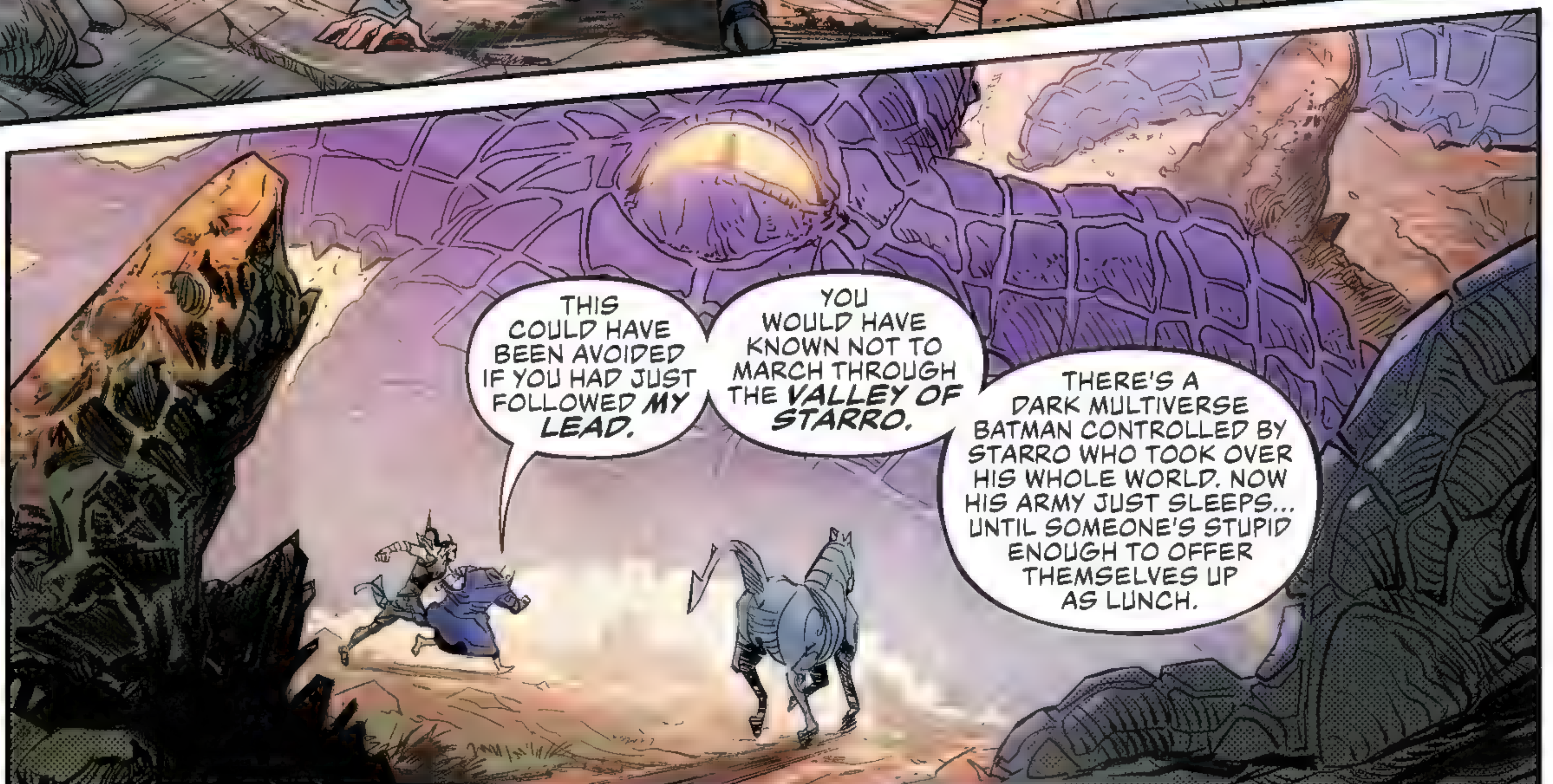


WAKE  
UP, YOU  
FOOL!



LEX?!

I SAID  
YOU WOULD  
NEED ME.

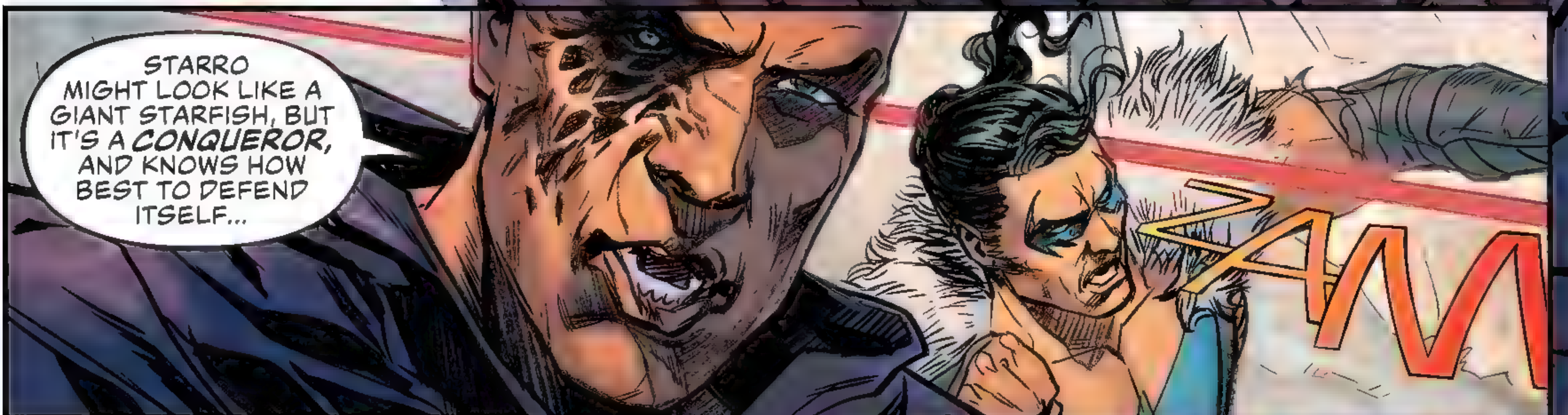
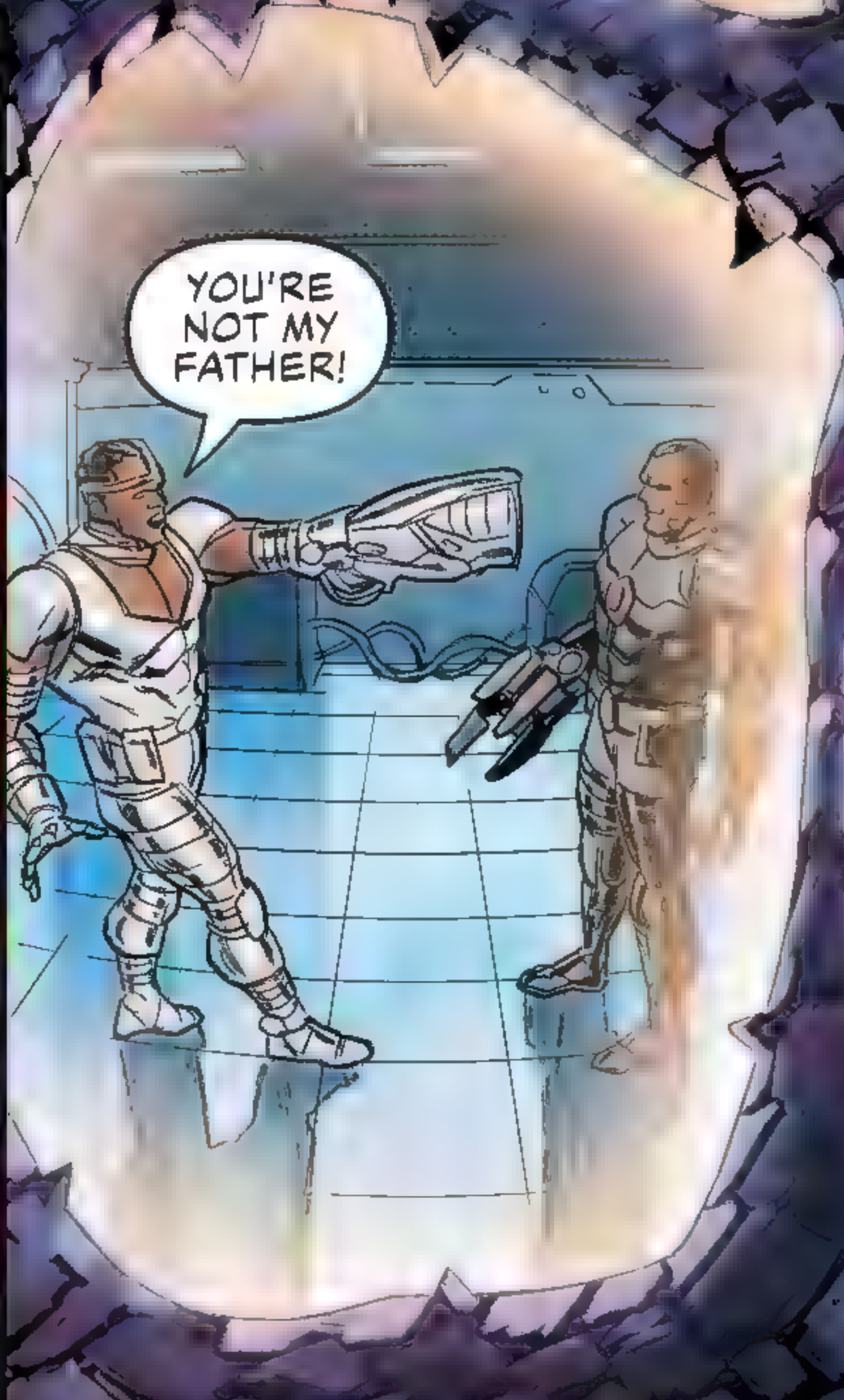
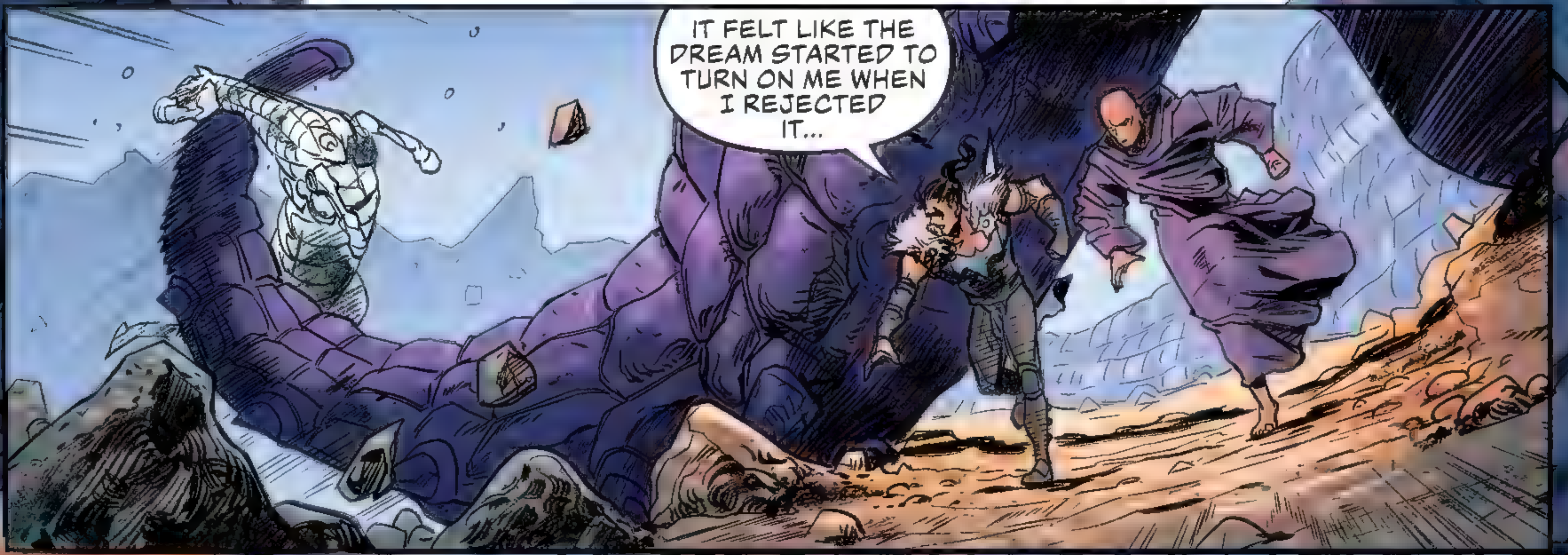


THIS  
COULD HAVE  
BEEN AVOIDED  
IF YOU HAD JUST  
FOLLOWED MY  
LEAD.

YOU  
WOULD HAVE  
KNOWN NOT TO  
MARCH THROUGH  
THE **VALLEY OF  
STARRO**.

THERE'S A  
DARK MULTIVERSE  
BATMAN CONTROLLED BY  
STARRO WHO TOOK OVER  
HIS WHOLE WORLD. NOW  
HIS ARMY JUST SLEEPS...  
UNTIL SOMEONE'S STUPID  
ENOUGH TO OFFER  
THEMSELVES UP  
AS LUNCH.









...BY  
CONTROLLING  
YOUR TEAM TO  
KILL US!

NEXT: **NIGHTWING AND LEX LUTHOR TEAM UP?!**



**THE MOST SADISTIC  
10-YEAR-OLD IN EXISTENCE!**

**STORY BY** PETER J. TOMASI **AND** TONY PATRICK

**ART BY** RILEY ROSSMO **AND** DANIEL SAMPERE



**DARK NIGHTS**

**DEATH  
METAL**

**ROBIN  
KING**

**NEW ONE-SHOT • OCTOBER**



# DC NATION INTERVIEW WITH RORSCHACH WRITER TOM KING

In *Rorschach* from writer Tom King and artist Jorge Fornés, the character famously disintegrated by Dr. Manhattan at the end of *Watchmen* resurfaces, but...how? That's the mystery that unfolds over 12 issues.

## RORSCHACH IS ONE OF THE MOST UNIQUELY POLARIZING CHARACTERS IN COMICS. BEFORE STARTING THIS SERIES, WHAT WAS YOUR TAKE?

I always thought of Rorschach as a parody or a tribute to Steve Ditko's obsession with Ayn Rand's work. Ditko basically thought that fiction exists to present the ideal man as a moral lesson to the reader, a model for their behavior. And to him the ideal hero was someone who understood that there was good and there was bad and there was nothing in between; the obvious obligation of that hero then is to do the good and punish the bad.

Rorschach is the attempt to insert that perfect vision of incorruptible man into our imperfect corruptible world and see what happens.

## WHAT'S THE PROCESS LIKE OF TAKING RORSCHACH—A CHARACTER DISTINCTLY TIED TO THE MID-'80S ERA OF WATCHMEN—AND TELLING A STORY THAT HAS RELEVANCE TO YOU IN 2020?

Things are crazy right now. I mean it's insane; it's driving people insane. And we have to talk about it; we have to try to make things that are as good as all that bad that's out there, or else we'll just surrender to it and who wants to do that?

The language of Rorschach is a language you can tell a story about a world like this in. It doesn't work with Superman and Batman. Those are the wrong words. But Rorschach, he can talk to it, he can describe it, he can write it on a sign and march it down the street past all the heroes ignoring the truth that's in front of them. The only way to write Rorschach is to be relevant.

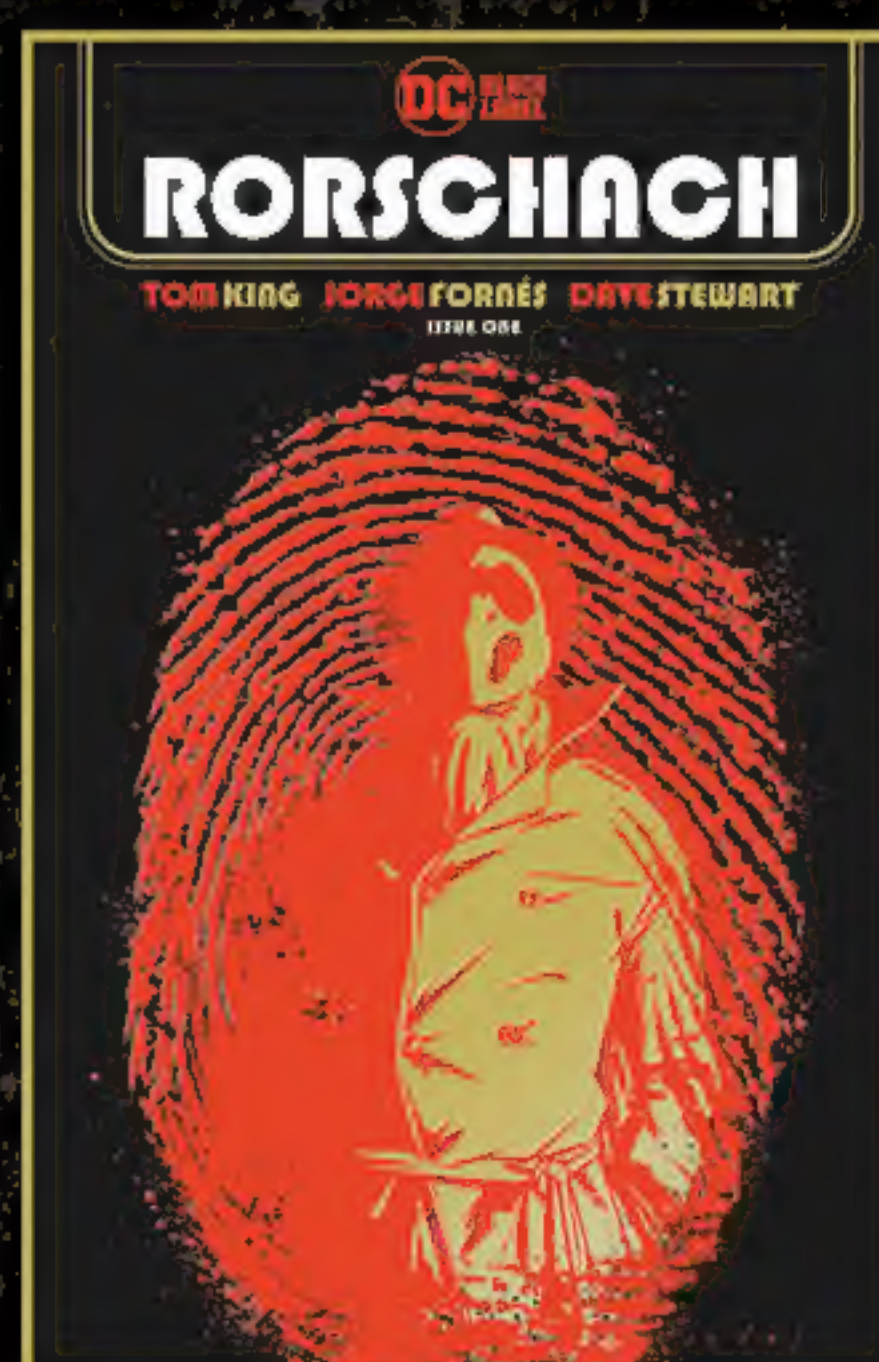
## THIS SERIES ALSO STARS A YOUNG WOMAN PARTNERING WITH RORSCHACH, INVESTIGATING THE MYSTERY. WHAT CAN YOU SHARE ABOUT HER?

This is the young woman's first appearance anywhere. She's going to be very important to a lot of things going forward.

The detective is who you think he is.



## RORSCHACH #1



TOM KING  
JORGE FORNÉS  
DAVE STEWART

ON SALE IN  
OCTOBER



AGES 17+

DC COMICS BOB HARRAS Senior VP - Editor-in-Chief, DC Comics JIM LEE Publisher & Chief Creative Officer BOBBIE CHASE VP - Global Publishing Initiatives & Digital Strategy DON FALLETTI VP - Manufacturing Operations & Workflow Management LAWRENCE GANEM VP - Talent Services ALISON GILL Senior VP - Manufacturing & Operations HANK KANALZ Senior VP - Publishing Strategy & Support Services DAN MIRON VP - Publishing Operations NICK J. NAPOLITANO VP - Manufacturing Administration & Design NANCY SPEARS VP - Sales JONAH WEILAND VP - Marketing & Creative Services MICHELE R. WELLS VP & Executive Editor, Young Reader

JUSTICE LEAGUE 54, Early December, 2020. Published biweekly by DC Comics, 2900 W. Alameda Avenue, Burbank, CA 91505. GST # is R125921072. Copyright © 2020 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof, and related elements are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters, and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. DC Comics does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork. For Advertising and Custom Publishing contact [dccomicsadvertising@dccomics.com](mailto:dccomicsadvertising@dccomics.com). For details on DC Comics Ratings, visit [dccomics.com/go/ratings](http://dccomics.com/go/ratings). DC - a WarnerMedia Company.



*The Last Kryptonian-DCP*

